

Amendment to the Specification:

Amend paragraph number [0020] of the above-noted application as follows:

**[0020]** Computing environment 100 includes, for instance, a plurality of user workstations 102 (e.g., laptops, notebooks, such as ThinkPads, personal computers, RS/6000s, etc.) coupled to a job management service 104 via, for instance, the internet, extranet or intranet. Job management service 104 includes, for instance, a Web application (or other process) to be executed on a Web application server (or node), such as WebSphere offered by International Business Machines Corporation, or distributed across a plurality of servers or nodes. It has the responsibility for accepting user requests and passing the requests to the appropriate nodes of the environment. As one example, a user interacts with the job management service through a client application, such as a Web Browser or a standalone application. There are various products that include a job management service including, for instance, LSF offered by Platform (~~www.platform.com~~), and Maui, an open source scheduler available at ~~http://www.supercluster.org~~.

Amend paragraph number [0025] of the above-noted application as follows:

**[0025]** The manager virtual machine obtains (e.g., receives, is forwarded, retrieves, etc.) a request to be processed from a job management service 206 coupled to manager virtual machine 202 and job virtual machine 204. The manager virtual machine communicates with the job management service and responds to queries from the service. In one example, this communication is through grid middleware, such as the Globus Toolkit available from the Globus Project at ~~www.globus.org~~ or the IBM Grid Toolbox available at ~~www.alphaworks.ibm.com~~. As one example, the information obtained from the queries is used to determine whether the request is to be sent to the node of the manager virtual machine. If the node can accommodate the request, the request is sent to the manager virtual machine, which controls the initiation of a job virtual machine to process the request. During processing of the request, the job virtual machine communicates directly with the job management service to provide status and/or results.

Amend paragraph number [0035] of the above-noted application as follows:

**[0035]** Returning to FIG. 3, subsequent to activating the job virtual machine and allocating the resources, execution of the request is started on the job virtual machine, STEP 320. Further, the manager virtual machine returns a handle (e.g., an identifier) of the job virtual machine to the job management service, so that the job management service can communicate directly with the job virtual machine, STEP 322. In one example, this communication is through grid middleware, such as the Globus Toolkit available from the Globus Project at [www.globus.org](http://www.globus.org) or the IBM Grid Toolbox available at [www.alphaworks.ibm.com](http://www.alphaworks.ibm.com). As one example, the job management service notifies the user that job submission is complete, STEP 324.